



MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

S927 AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE WORCESTER COUNTY COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Lead Sponsor: Harriette Chandler

This legislation will create a permanent Worcester County Commission on the Status of Women, consisting of nine individuals to be appointed by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women. The Worcester Commission will be responsible for conducting ongoing studies of all matters concerning women in Worcester County. Based on their findings, the Worcester Commission will be equipped to advise local and state officials, and to propose solutions to matters regarding women in the region. In addition, findings and recommended solutions will be reported annually to the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women.

Current Law:

- ✓ At this time, there is no operative organization to advise elected officials on the status of women throughout Worcester County. There is no existing county commission to make recommendations on how public policy and legislation can best serve the women of Worcester County.
- ✓ There are currently four women's county/regional commissions across Massachusetts that serve the women of their county and submit annual reports to the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women. These commissions exist in Berkshire County, Bristol County, the Cape and Islands, and Essex County. Additionally, there are eight municipal commissions across the Commonwealth that exist independent of the state commission, but maintain a working relationship with the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women.

Benefits of the Bill:

- ✓ Worcester County is geographically the largest county in Massachusetts, home to 790,000 people and 59 cities and towns – twice the average number of cities and towns per a Massachusetts county. Thus, women in the region face a vast array of issues that cut across racial, socioeconomic, and cultural lines. The Worcester County Commission will be able to best recognize and address county-specific needs and concerns of the women in this area.
- ✓ These observations will contribute to recommendations made by the Commission regarding public policy and legislation to local and state legislators.

For Additional Information:

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